

Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 16

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

April 28, 2000

Supply makes it two-for-two

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

Spangdahlem Air Base went two-for-two at the annual U.S. Air Forces in Europe 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year banquet held at Ramstein Air Base April 14.

In an unusual turn of events, both of the award winners come out of the 52nd Supply Squadron – Senior Master Sgt. Michael Mazzi, materiel storage and distribution, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Marshall, fuels.

“It was a great evening for the wing (52nd Fighter Wing) and very historic . . . having two winners from the same wing, group and squadron isn’t something you run across often,” said Col. Daniel Lombardi, 52nd Logistics Group commander. “I know they’ll compete well representing the wing at Air Force.”

Mazzi won for his work as the materiel storage and distribution flight chief. He managed a \$135 million supply account as well as the U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s newest storage facility. He also instituted a bin-row crew chief program that cut inventory adjustments by 28 percent, and led the unit’s efforts in



Tech. Sgt. Victor Trisvan

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Mazzi, one of the U.S. Air Forces 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year from the 52nd Supply Squadron, explains to Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid how supply tracks and inventories items in its warehouse.

setting a USAFE record with no delinquent documents through 1.2 million transactions.

A skilled operation manager, according to supervisors, Mazzi sustained a 98-percent on-time delivery rate for 12,000 priority assets, allowing wing aircraft to fly 14,000 sorties with no supply delays.

Reflecting on the banquet, Mazzi said he was stunned when his name was called out.

“They had just called Sergeant Marshall,” he said. “I then thought they would never call mine now. When my name was called, I sort of sat there in a state of disbelief for a couple of seconds.”

Mazzi compared his selection to represent Spangdahlem and USAFE in the Air Force competition to his 1990 U.S. National Bobsled Championship title.

“Even though that was athletics, this is my career and it ranks right up there,” said the five-year member of the U.S. Bobsled team. “Like that national event, I went on to compete in the world championships. Now, I’m representing USAFE and all that it’s accomplished at the Air Force level.

“I feel it has even more meaning since there are two of us from Spangdahlem. It’s indicative of everything the base has done in the

past year. It’s a validation that we’re the best fighter wing. We’re proud of our warfighter tradition and what we do daily. These awards reflect the spirit at Spangdahlem and what we accomplish.

“I don’t brag about being from supply. I’m from Spangdahlem. I just happen to be from the supply squadron representing USAFE.”

As the fuels distribution NCOIC, Marshall led the servicing of 1,573 aircraft with 1.8 million gallons of jet fuel in support of Operation Allied Force. He also deployed to Zaragoza, Spain, for Operation One-Way, supporting 60 A-10 sorties requiring 72,000 gallons of aviation fuel and serving as hazardous waste monitor.

As the fuels liaison to three flying squadrons at Spangdahlem, he led the reengineering of the fuels bulk storage, hydrants and cryogenic section processes, and rewrote detailed operating instructions for single-person truck fills at hydrant systems.

While Marshall felt he had a fair shot at coming

See Airmen, Page 2

Airmen

home from Ramstein with the award, everyone at that level of competition has a strong package.

"At the end of the night you ask yourself, what separates me from them," he said. "They're all great people."

Marshall admits it was a relief. "It had been a long week waiting," he said. "It's hard to feel good when you know two other people had to lose for you to succeed. As I told my wife, Wendi, I never get too high or too low. I just stay somewhere in the middle. It saves a lot of heartache."

According to Marshall, maturing in the Air Force while accomplishing the job benefits his career for years to come, but winning the award rates high on his accomplishments list.

"I wanted this award for my family, fuels flight and the wing," he said. "My family and flight made many sacrifices so I could get there and the wing had such a great year. I was glad to be part of that and I want to thank the entire wing for the encouragement and support. It truly makes a difference."



Tech. Sgt. Victor Trisvan
Staff Sgt. Matthew Marshall, one of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year from the 52nd Supply Squadron, takes a fuel sample.

New furniture improves life in dormitories

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero
Internal information chief

Dormitory residents in the communications and component repair squadrons sleep easier now thanks to more than \$500,000 in new furniture.

Residents, contractors and detail troops earlier this month gutted dormitories 140 (CS) and 136 (CRS) of their old, worn furnishings. Each room was then filled with a new captain's bed and mattress, desk and chair, armoire, night table, kitchen table with two chairs, bedspread and drapes.

"I love it, especially the new mattress," said Airman 1st Class Kimberlie Drews, a communications squadron dormitory resident. "The old furniture wasn't too bad, but it was too dark, beat up, scratched and not well maintained. The lighter color of the new furniture really brightens up the room."

Actually, the old furniture had

exceeded its seven-year life expectancy, said Walter Klein, civilian furnishings management manager. The 10-year-old furniture now rests in the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office for sale or disposal.

Depending upon the size of the dormitory, the cost for new furnishings runs from about \$260,000 to \$290,000, he said. Money for dormitory furniture comes from base operations and maintenance fall-out funds.

Dormitories 140 and 136 weren't the first to receive new furniture, said Master Sgt. Donnie R. Henderson, unaccompanied housing superintendent. Dorms 227, 333 and 335 received 288 sets of bedroom furnishings, 144 tables and 288 chairs.

"This was the first time we swapped out the furniture at the same time, though," he said. "In the past, we temporarily moved the residents to replace the furniture.

This time, the residents themselves helped with the exchange. The First Term Airman Center even provided detail troops, about five a day, to help."

As a result, \$7,500 were saved and the furniture exchange was completed a week ahead of schedule, Klein said.

"This was a great morale booster," said Master Sgt. Ernest Moss, CRS dorm manager. "It vastly improves their (dorm residents) quality of life, which is my job. I like to see them have decent living quarters to come home to after work."

Within the next six weeks, residents in dormitories 226 (equipment maintenance squadron) and 134 (operations group) can expect to receive new furniture, Klein said. Furnishings management budgeted for dorms 177 and 178 (both operations group) to receive theirs in fiscal 2000, and 225 (support group) in fiscal 2001.

Commander shares anthrax shot views

By Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman
52nd Fighter Wing commander

As the 52nd Fighter Wing enters the Expeditionary Aerospace Force cycle this fall, it will soon be our turn to roll up sleeves and begin the anthrax shot series.

There has been extensive media coverage on the anthrax program. I urge all of you to become informed on this topic if you have any doubts about receiving the shots. Your squadron commanders have an informative briefing and the medical group has trained advisors to answer any questions you may have.

Additionally, there are several official Websites with anthrax information (for example, www.anthrax.osd.mil). There is a lot of misinformation available as well. Many Internet chat rooms and Websites have lots of words on anthrax, but the validity of what they say is suspect. Treat these sources carefully.

You may ask why this cannot be a personal decision on whether you want to be protected against anthrax.



Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, demonstrates protective methods against biological agents by receiving his fourth anthrax vaccination April 19 from Airman 1st Class Jenipher White. According to Hoffman, "MOPP Level Alpha plus the anthrax vaccination -- a winning combination to keep you alive."

The answer is simple — your death in a combat situation impacts not only you, but the lives of those around you. In the military, we do not allow individual choice on whether you should wear the chemical ensemble. If you are exposed to an incapacitating agent, you become a liability to the team

around you and then none of you are performing the mission. The same is true of the anthrax shot — if you don't have it and are exposed, you will die . . . painfully. While you may accept this risk, the Air Force cannot, especially when it is within our resources to prevent.

The media is full of stories of adverse reactions to the shot series. Again, I urge you to get the facts, not the rumors, on what medical reactions have actually occurred. As a four-time recipient of the shot, I did get a localized reaction, but it was nothing compared to my reaction to other shots, especially typhoid. No one challenges the need for that shot.

I've done my homework and have no reason to doubt the safety or effectiveness of the anthrax vaccination.

Do your homework and then roll up your sleeve. None of us like shots, but this one will truly save your life in a world where rogue nations and terrorist groups continue to develop biological weapons.